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M.L.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

TITMUSS

Atty. Ref.: 36-1381

Serial No. **Unknown**

Group:

National Phase of **PCT/GB99/01394**

Filed: **October 6, 2000**

Examiner:

For: **STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL OF INFORMATION**

* * * * *

October 6, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS (AS APPEARING ON AMENDED SHEETS WITH IPER)

~~Claim 3, line 1, delete "or 2".~~

~~Claim 4, line 1, delete "2 or 3,".~~

~~Claim 9, line 1, delete "any of claims 4 to 8" and insert -- claim 4 --.~~

~~Claim 12, line 1, delete "or 11".~~

~~Claim 13, line 1, delete "11 or 12,".~~

~~Claim 14, line 1, delete "11, 12 or 13,".~~

~~Claim 15, line 1, delete "any of claims 11 to 14" and insert -- claim 11 --.~~

~~Claim 16, line 1, delete "any of claims 4 to 15" and insert -- claim 4 --.~~

~~Claim 17, line 2, delete "any of claims 1 to 16" and insert -- claim 1 --.~~

~~Claim 21, line 1, delete "any of claims 18 to 20" and insert -- claim 18 --.~~

~~Claim 22, line 1, delete "any of claims 18 to 21" and insert -- claim 18 --.~~